

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

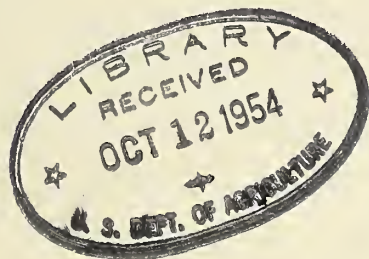
03
FREMONT

NATIONAL FOREST

Reserve

499.61
F764F

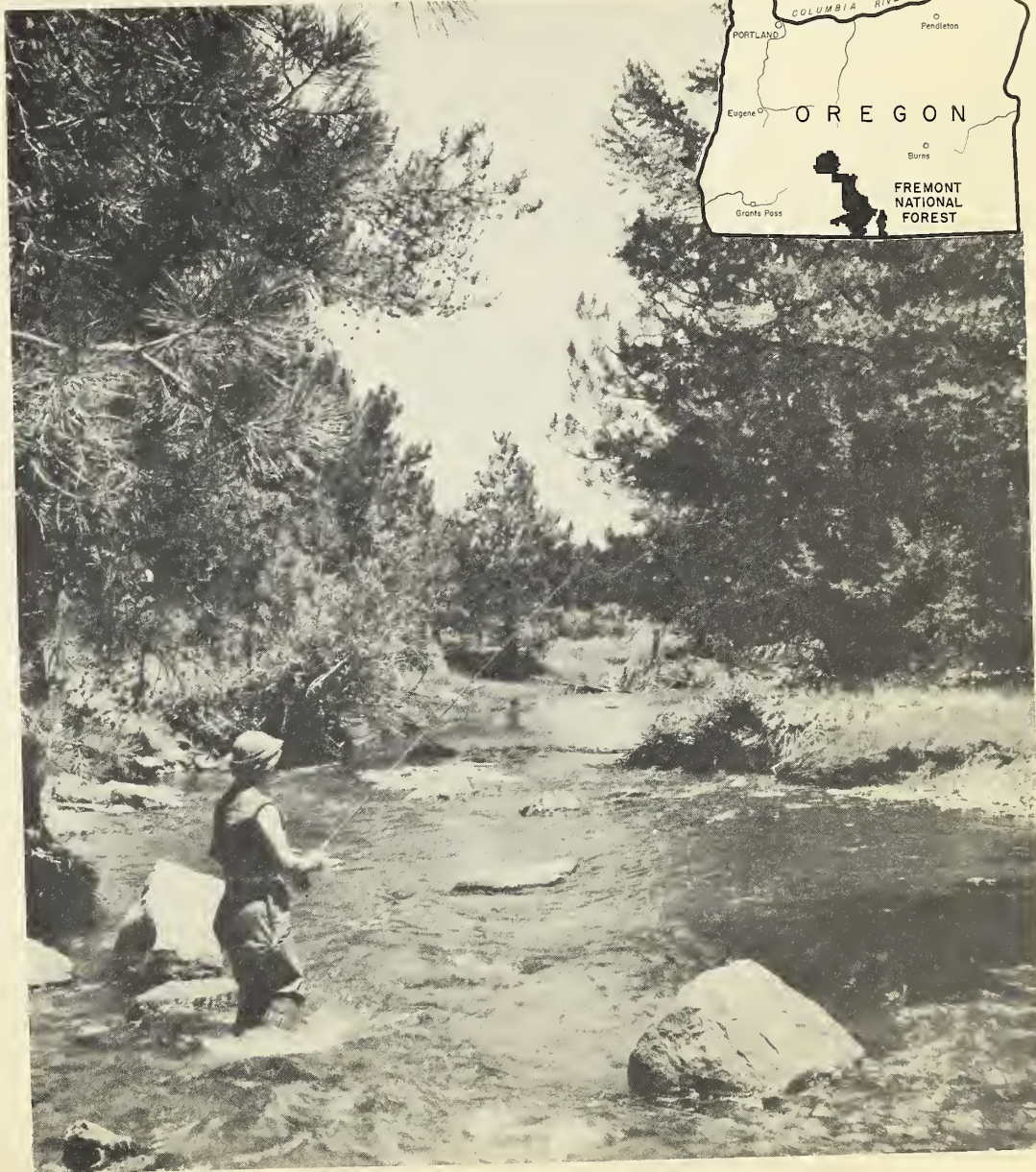
20
Pacific Northwest
Region.



2
U.S. Forest Service.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

50 1954





Each season, thousands of sheep graze on national forest land. Under multiple-use management it is often possible to produce both forage and timber on the same area, as well as other forest resources.



Many stockmen graze their cattle under permit on western national forest ranges. The green forage helps to carry livestock herds through the summer and to produce grass-fat stock for fall markets.



For the past several years the Fremont has carried on an intensive program to improve grazing conditions by reseeding worn-out rangelands. This area was plowed and seeded to crested and intermediate wheatgrass 2 years ago.



Boys of a church group enjoying an outing at Campbell Lake. Recreational use of the national forests has been increasing steadily.



The opportunity for rest and play is one of the most valuable contributions of national forests. Camping and fishing are only two of many activities possible.



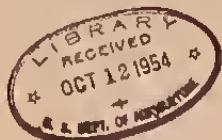
One of the many mule deer found in the Fremont. They, along with other wildlife, depend on the forest for a home. This is one more reason for being careful with fire.

FREMONT

NATIONAL FOREST

Revised
1929
F-7641

Pacific Northwest
Region.



Forest Service

U. S. Department of Agriculture

1954



J. C. Fremont. (Photo from daguerreotype by Brady.)

The other comprises the mountains between Lakeview and Klamath Falls, bounded by the California-Oregon line on the south and the Deschutes National Forest on the north. Approximately two-thirds of the forest lies in Lake County and the remainder in Klamath County.

Water a Major Resource

The importance of an adequate supply of pure, sediment-free water is becoming more and more apparent as the population increases. The mountains of our western national forests are the main source of water for industrial centers and farming communities as well as for recreational purposes and the production of hydroelectric power.

Fremont streams furnish water, directly or indirectly (underground water), to seven communities and hundreds of farm families. Lakeview is the only city in the area and the exact number of farm families served is unknown. However, water is furnished to irrigate 300,000 acres of farmland and there are many opportunities for increasing the productivity of other land near the forest by the use of water. Water and soil are the basic resources that enable the people living in the vicinity of the Fremont to maintain a prosperous and pleasant livelihood. For this reason every effort is made to manage timber, wildlife, grazing, and recreation in such a way as to protect the soil and conserve the water, which are so essential to human welfare.

Where the mountains are adequately covered with trees, grass, or other vegetation, rain and melting snow soak through the protective humus layer and soil mantle and air released through underground channels as springs and streams. This means of water absorption maintains relatively steady flows throughout the year and especially during the period of greatest need, the hot summer months. A full cover of vegetation also helps prevent erosion by breaking the force of rainfall and maintains a porous

25 percent is returned to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located. This fund is used by the counties for schools and roads.

Forage for Livestock and Big Game

Meadows, parklike areas, and open timber stands of the Fremont Forest produce choice grass and browse forage important for grazing domestic livestock and big game. The Fremont Forest lies in the heart of one of the largest stock-producing areas in Oregon. Its best ranges are grazed during the summer by cattle and sheep when hay is being raised on rich bottom lands. Each season, about 12,000 cattle and 40,000 sheep graze under permit within the forest boundaries.

The forest is the summer home for a large number of mule deer including the famous Interstate herd, which winters just south of the Oregon line in California, largely on the Modoc National Forest. These animals migrate with seasons and each year follow much the same pattern of travel. Careful management of grazing animals is required to insure maximum production of forage and to prevent accelerated soil erosion. Studies are made to determine the proper number of livestock that should be grazed on the range and to provide for their entry and removal. Water developments, fences, and trails are built to obtain proper distribution.

Since 1946 an intensive program has been carried on to improve grazing capacities by reseeding large areas of worn-out rangelands on the Fremont. These once productive rangelands were reduced in years past to undesirable sagebrush through continued heavy use. Under the present program, these areas are being plowed and seeded to palatable grasses such as intermediate wheatgrass, crested wheatgrass, timothy, and others. The results have been gratifying because the undesirable plants are replaced by nutritious forage, and the soil has been stabilized.

Gearhart Mountain Wild Area

One of the more interesting tracts on the Fremont Forest is the Gearhart Mountain Wild Area, which is one of the roughest and highest forested areas in this section of the State not crossed by numerous roads and trails. It is an ideal place in which to hike, fish, and enjoy the scenery and interesting geological formations. This area is 10 miles northeast of Bly and may be reached by car over the Bly-Daily Creek road. The principal trail is the Gearhart, which extends from Lookout Rock in the southeastern part of the area to the top of Gearhart Mountain and down the north side to Little Lake.

Elevation varies from 6,000 feet along the south and east boundaries to 8,364 feet at the summit of Gearhart Mountain. The topography is rough and broken with canyons and ridges radiating in all directions from the top of the mountain. The rocks that compose the main part of Gearhart Mountain are of volcanic origin. Coarse-grained diorite and granite rocks are the most common. Also of geologic interest is the evidence of glacialism in the headwaters of Daily and Gearhart Creeks. Many rugged promontories and peculiarly shaped pillars and obelisks have been weathered out of solid rock in the southeastern part of the area. Gearhart Notch, a sheer cliff that breaks off the north side of the main peak for more than 300 feet, is a prominent feature of the mountain.

Wildlife found on the wild area are Rocky Mountain mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, a few black bears, and an occasional cougar. Fourteen miles of stream and a lake provide fishing in the area. Native rainbow trout are the most common species taken. However, a few eastern brook and brown trout are found in the North Fork of the Sprague River, and all three species are found in Blue Lake.



THE FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST was named for Capt. John C. Fremont, who in the early winter of 1843 led one of the first exploration parties through southern Oregon. He and his intrepid men, including Kit Carson, the guide and frontiersman, traveled south from the Columbia River. They made their way through Deschutes Valley, thence through mountain snows and rimocks until they reached a snow-locked ridge overlooking a sun-baked lake bordered with green grass. Fremont named these strikingly dissimilar geographic features Winter Ridge and Summer Lake.

The party descended to the lake near the present location of the Summer Lake post office and from there continued southward along a route that is now the Fremont Highway. On December 20 the men reached and camped on the east shore of Lake Abert, which is named for Fremont's commanding officer. They then proceeded eastward into Warner Valley and then southward into California. Another page in the history of Oregon had been written.

The Fremont, comprised of 1,772,000 acres, is one of 150 national forests in the United States and Alaska which were created by Congress to provide for management and protection of natural resources. Major resources of the national forests are water, timber, forage for livestock and big game, recreation, and wildlife. In accordance with the principle of multiple use, national forests are managed for coordinated development and use of all the resources and values of the land. Generally, a combination of several uses is possible on the same area. Conflicts between uses are resolved in the interest of the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run.

The Fremont, one of 18 national forests in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, is made up of 2 separate areas of the extreme east part of the Cascade Mountains. One area includes the Warner Mountains from Abert Rim to the California line.

soil that is receptive to water. The root systems help lead the water deep into the soil.

When the plant cover is destroyed by fire, insects, disease, or misuse of the land, erosion sets in and sediment-laden water runs off along the surface of the ground, contributing often to heavy, long-lasting flood damage. For this reason, maintenance of a good cover of vegetation is of prime importance and is given first consideration in every activity on the forest.

Timber a Forest Crop

Timber is a valuable crop of the Fremont Forest. Mills in Lakeview, Klamath Falls, Bly, Paisley, Silver Lake, Gilchrist, and Bend purchase it from the Government through a system of competitive bidding. The successful bidder contracts to cut the trees and remove the logs in such a way as to do the least possible damage to the land and to insure that a new crop of trees will succeed the old.

Under the basic principle of sustained yield, this forest is managed for continuous renewal of timber crops to replace those harvested. Accordingly, not more than 90 million board-feet of timber, which is the estimated annual growth, are cut each year on the Fremont Forest. The same principle applies to wildlife, forage for livestock, and other renewable resources.

Before a sale is made, foresters mark each tree that is to be cut. Trained men mark only mature and defective trees, leaving the more thrifty ones for continued growth and for recycling to insure future harvests. After the cutting is done, stumps and landings are seeded with grass to help hold the soil in place and improve its water-absorbing ability.

Ninety percent of the total timber stand on the Fremont Forest is ponderosa pine. The remainder consists of white fir, lodgepole pine, incense cedar, sugar pine, and juniper. Of the money collected from the sale of timber, forage, and special-use permits,

Recreation

Each year, an estimated 70,000 persons visit the Fremont National Forest for healthful, relaxing, outdoor recreation. Hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, skiing, and camping are some of the wholesome activities enjoyed by these visitors.

Hunters come from all parts of the West to enjoy the deer hunting in this area. Numerous shallow lakes, which offer resting grounds for ducks and geese, also provide good hunting conditions for such waterfowl. In addition, the many forest streams furnish excellent trout fishing. State fish and game laws apply on national forest lands.

Developed campgrounds are maintained for public convenience at the more heavily used recreation areas. However, many people prefer making their own camps in secluded areas. This type of camping is allowed, but first find out whether campfire permits are required and obtain one if needed.

There are many interesting geological formations in and near the forest. Remnants of the ice age can be found close beside geologically recent lava flows. An outstanding feature is Abert Rim, along the east side of Lake Abert. This is the largest and most definite exposed geologic fault in North America. It rises nearly 2,500 feet above the lakeshore with a 640-foot vertical cliff of layers upon layers of lava at the top.

There is evidence that this area was inhabited ages before Fremont's time by an unknown people. While Indian arrowheads, knives, bows, and tools are discovered more readily along the ancient lakeshores, relics of an earlier age are also found. It is believed by some eminent archeologists that these unknown people were among the earliest on the American Continent. This is borne out by statements of Indians that the older relics were left by "some other people."

Other Forest Recreation Areas

Campbell and Denthorse Lakes near Gearhart Mountain are popular recreation areas that are visited by fishermen and campers from all parts of Oregon.

Dog Lake, 26 miles southwest of Lakeview on the head of Dog Creek, is well stocked with bass, perch, and some trout. The lake is open to year-long bass and perch fishing. Boats can be rented at the lake or may be launched if privately owned. Two small forest campgrounds are situated nearby.

Drews Reservoir, located 20 miles from Lakeview, also is a source of bass, perch, and trout. It likewise is open for year-long bass and perch fishing. However, boats are not available. Drews Creek campground, a short distance below the reservoir, has tables, stoves, drinking water, and sanitation facilities.

There are many fine fishing streams on the Fremont. Some of the most outstanding are the Chevreauan and Sprague Rivers, together with their tributaries, and the headwaters of the Sprague River. In addition, Deep Creek and Daily Creek are also popular.

The Fremont Highlander Ski Club has an excellent ski hill 10 miles northeast of Lakeview on the summit of the Warner Mountains. Two electric rope tows operated there in tandem are 1,500 feet in length with a rise of nearly 400 feet. A warming hut maintained by the club is open to the public from December through March.

Mitchell Recreation Area, 12 miles northwest of Bly, was developed by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. to mark the only spot in the United States where civilian casualties occurred from direct enemy action during World War II. It was here that a Japanese bomb exploded on May 5, 1945, killing a woman and several children who were on an outing trip. A monument dedicates the area to them. Several camp tables and good drinking water from the nearby springs are available.



The serene beauty of an old-growth ponderosa pine forest will be long remembered by many a forest visitor.



A sawmill at Lakeview fed by timber from the Fremont. Logging and processing of national forest timber contributes directly to local payrolls.



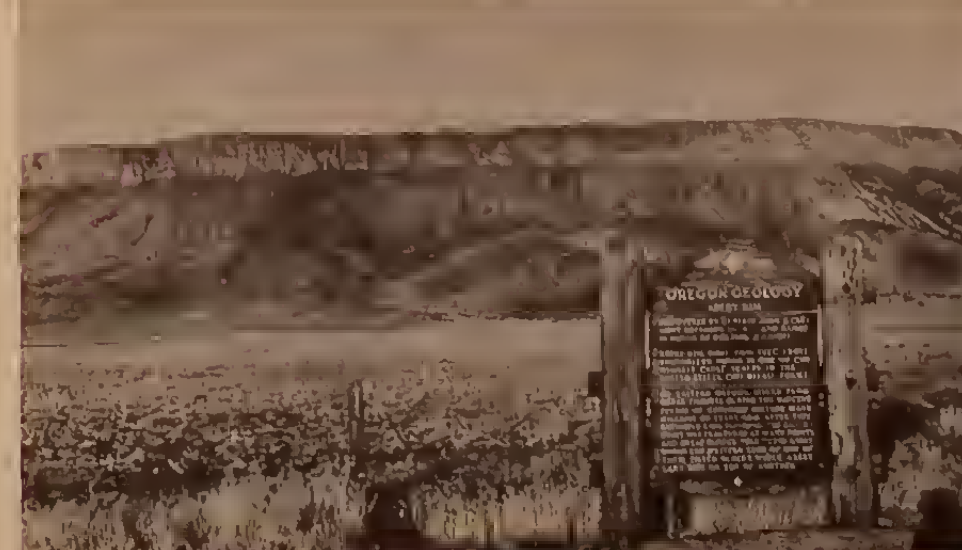
Victims are welcome at fire towers. You can help prevent fires by crushing lighted tobacco dead out and by completely extinguishing campfires. Always remember that your forest is worth protecting.



This log, cut into sawmill lengths, has been marked and measured by a forest officer. National forest timber is sold under contract to the highest bidder among private lumber companies.



Water is a basic forest resource. Careful management of watersheds is necessary if there is to be a continuing and regulated supply of water for homes and for irrigating valuable field crops.



Abert Rim, one of the most spectacular landmarks in southern Oregon, was discovered by Capt. John Fremont in 1843. The top of the rim is nearly 2,500 feet above the valley floor.



F-441132

The serene beauty of an old-growth ponderosa pine forest will be long remembered by many a forest visitor.

A99.61
F764F

U.S. Forest Service. Pacific Northwest Region.
Fremont National Forest.



